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Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C.  
20554

May 25, 2011

*RE: In the Matter of Applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65)*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Here in Mississippi, there are approximately 25,000 African American-owned businesses, which contribute over \$1.3 billion to this state's economy—that's 37 percent of Mississippi's economy. It's exciting to imagine how much more expansion and success these businesses could enjoy with widespread access to high-speed broadband. And, fortunately, the result of the proposed merger of T-Mobile and AT&T is expected to be near-universal access to broadband Internet service. We expect the minority businesses we represent to be some of the primary beneficiaries of this expanded network commitment.

More broadly, we foresee one outcome of this deal as a considerable narrowing of the "digital divide" that has defined the discrepancies in access from urban and rural and/or minority communities. Narrowing this divide will bring opportunities—professional, educational, and social—directly to previously underserved people, households, businesses, and classrooms. For businesses, the availability of advanced communications technologies means the chance to expand and compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century marketplace, regardless of business size or zip code. Possibilities like Internet sales and a strong online presence will morph into realities, and resulting in local economic growth and new jobs.

A strong minority business community benefits the entire state, and we believe that real, sustainable economic growth for Mississippi can come only where there is true growth in our African American community. To that end, as we continue our work to strengthen and empower our business community, we remain confident universal high-speed wireless Internet service will help us in our mission and in our outreach efforts by giving more people and communities access to the resources and services we offer.

On behalf of Mississippi's African American business community, I hope you will approve this merger. The possibilities that it brings to our state and our nation are truly limitless. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

J. R. Jones, President/CEO  
MBCC  
Affiliates of National Black Chamber of Commerce

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